

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON ROK FOREIGN
POLICY CHANGES

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT PARK'S FOREIGN
POLICY STATEMENT, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL FIRST TRACED
THE HISTORY OF KOREAN DIVISION TO DATE, BLAMING THE NORTH
FOR PAST SUFFERING AND FOR DIFFICULTIES ANTICIPATED ALONG
THE WAY TO UNIFICATION. HE DESCRIBED NEW ROK FOREIGN POLICY
AS A REALISTIC AND EFFECTIVE MEANS TO ACCOMMODATE KOREA'S
HOPES TO THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. HE CALLED FOR
FOSTERING NATIONAL STRENGTH AND HE FORECAST VICTORY OVER THE
NORTH IN DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC COMPETITION.

2. PRIMIN MADE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS IN REPLY
TO QUESTIONS:

A. ROKG RECOGNIZES THAT A COMMUNIST ADMINISTRATION IN FACT
RULES THE AREA NORTH OF THE CEASEFIRE LINE. BUT THE KOREAN
NATIONAL DESIRE FORBIDS THAT THE ROK RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA
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AS A STATE.

B. ROKG WOULD ABIDE BY UNGA DECISION ON UNCURK BUT IT OPPOSES ABOLITION OF UN FORCES AS LONG AS THE THREAT OF AGGRESSION CONTINUES.

C. ROKG FAVORED POSTPONEMENT OF A KOREAN DEBATE IN THE UNGA UNTIL IT KNEW HOW DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH WOULD PROGRESS. THE DIALOGUE HAS NOT BEEN AS FRUITFUL AS HOPED AND UNIFICATION WILL BE TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. THEREFORE ROKG INTENDS TO USE THE UNGA AND THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE TO ACCELERATE DIALOGUE AND PEACEFUL UNIFICATION.

D. ROKG CONSULTED IN ADVANCE WITH FREE, FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND EXPECTS THEIR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT.

E. ROKG EXPECTS THIS NEW POLICY TO PROMOTE THE OPENING UP OF NORTH KOREAN SOCIETY.

F. ROK APPROACH IS SIMILAR TO THE TWO GERMANIES IN THAT IT SEEKS TO EASE TENSIONS IN RELATIONS WITH THE NORTH, BUT IT DIFFERS IN THAT ROK DOES NOT RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA AS A STATE AND CONTINUES TO PURSUE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION.

3. ASKED WHETHER THE ROKG WAS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, RIMIN POINTED OUT THAT ROK WAS WILLING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THEM BUT SO FAR NONE HAD " OPENED ITS DOORS" TO THE ROK. HE SAID ROK WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. HE ADDED THAT ROKG VIEWED NEWLY ESTABLISHED TIES BETWEEN NORTH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND NORTH KOREA AS A SERIOUS MATTER AND HOPED THAT FREE NATIONS WOULD REFRAIN FROM HASTY RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA.
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